

BEIJING TODAY

今日早报

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

May 10 2013-May 16 2013

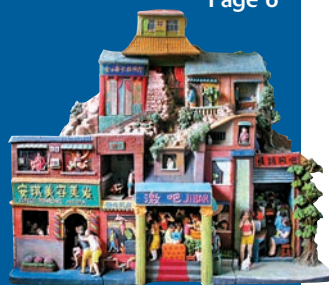
NO. 622 CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN

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Unseen voice of
modern art

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Will we ever learn?

When an earthquake shook Wenchuan to its foundations in 2008, media pounced on the countryside with a frenzy that didn't fade for the first year.

Many reporters earned praise and a pat on the back even though none asked the hard questions that would get responsible parties punished. Such shameful coverage returned two years later to mar the aftermath of the Yushu quake.

But Chinese earthquake coverage may be changing, if what came out of Ya'an last month is any indicator.

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Page 2

High-tech expo returns

China's top tech companies and research institutions are revving up to show off their latest creations.



Page 3

Nongfu reels after report

Nongfu's practice of skimming its "spring water" from the surface of a lake is at the heart of the water giant's latest quality scandal.

Under the auspices of the office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Zhang Yanping ■ Editor in Chief: Yu Haibo ■ Director: Li Xiaobing ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue
■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No. 23, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010)65902525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com
■ Advertisement: (010)65902534 ■ Hotline for subscription: (010)67756666 (Chinese), (010)65902626 (English) ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ 邮发代号 1-364 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation

International high-tech expo to open with focus on innovation



CFP Photo

The 16th China Beijing International High-Tech Expo (CHITEC) opens May 21 and run until May 26 at the China International Exhibition Center.

The theme of this year's expo is "Innovation-driven, restructuring and development," and will focus on independent innovation.

The expo will also showcase China's reforms in science and technology.

The opening ceremony will be held at the Great Hall of the People. Key figures from various ministries and organizations are expected to speak about innovation in enterprise.

The 14 exhibition area will

showcase dozens of the latest research achievements from key national universities and research institutes.

Achievements in aerospace will be one of the highlights.

China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation said it will unveil its latest plans for manned space flight and lunar exploration.

The expo will have eight forums, focusing on topics such as saving energy, recycling, the environment, city management, education and building an "intelligent city."

CHITEC will also hold 11 trade activities to promote the transformation of scientific and technological achievements by connecting

them with corporations.

This CHITEC will display the breakthroughs of key common technologies in China's emerging sectors.

There will be 94 scientific achievements presented, as well as equipment and products that have made breakthroughs in key fields of biological and medical technology, advanced manufacturing technology, advanced energy technology and modern agricultural technology.

CHITEC focuses on combining industry, academies and research.

More than 30 universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Fudan University, Zhejiang Univer-

sity and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, are expected to present more than 120 research projects.

The expo will highlight the innovation coming out of scientific parks that boost regional economic prowess. Protecting the environment will be a point of emphasis.

Zhongguancun Science Park, which has participated in CHITEC every year, will again have a presence.

CHITEC is organized by the Beijing municipal government, the ministries of science and technology, commerce, education, industry and information technology, and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administra-

tion Commission of the State Council, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and State Intellectual Property Bureau.

Eleven international organizations are expected to attend, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank Group and the International Solar Energy Society.

More than 50 delegations from government agencies and technological and business circles from roughly 20 countries and regions will attend.

More than 30 domestic provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities are also organizing delegations.

(By Liu Xiaochen)

Friend of China Mark Levine wins honorary award

Mark Levine, an American sociologist, has been doing voluntary work for more than 30 years. He was recently honored with the title "Envoy of Cross-cultural Exchanges and the Support of the Youth Development" at the 2013 Cultural Cultivation Season of the Beijing Youth Camp International (BYCI).

In September 2005, Levine came to China and devoted himself to English education. He taught students English writing and interacted with those who often don't have a chance to practice English. He also spoke at universities.

Levine eventually began to write music. Through singing, teaching and traveling, he has seen 19 provinces and met many students from all ethnic groups.

He said a good way to talk about youth in China was to speak through the Beijing Spirit – which includes the values of

patriotism, innovation, inclusiveness and virtue.

"Young Chinese take great pride in what China has been able to accomplish yet they understand that nothing is perfect and they want to help move China forward even more," he said.

"Chinese youth recognize innovation means not only developing new things but also learning how to keep some traditions or to adapt them to a modern world."

Levine said even as a foreigner, he feels included.

"Young people are eager to learn from *laowai* (foreigners) and are also excited to teach us about China's history, traditions and culture," he said. "They recognize that we are all part of the same world and want to help get rid of the separation between us."

"Virtue is acting with kindness and respect for others," he said. "As a teacher, I can



Guo Wenjie, vice secretary of Beijing Communist Youth League, presents Mark Levine an award for his work with China's youth.

Photo by Qu Yongyao

feel the love and respect of my students, who will eagerly volunteer their help without being asked and who work

hard to not leave their friends or classmates behind."

"Youth is one of China's strongest resources. They

help to not only to maintain a peaceful China but also to building a peaceful world."

(By Liu Xiaochen)

Nongfu Spring reels after crushing quality report

By Bao Chengrong

Nongfu Spring recently suspended its Beijing operations after the *Beijing Times* published a crushing report about its quality. The move is expected to cause direct capital losses of 5 million yuan.

But more damaging is the blow to its image.

Nongfu Spring said it believes the report was seeded by rival water bottler C'estbon. The two are locked in an intense competition for the domestic bottled water market.



C'estbon competes with Nongfu Spring



Beijing Times reporter is calling the quality of Nongfu Spring's bottled water into question.

CFP Photos

Quality standard

On April 10, the *Beijing Times* reported that Nongfu Spring's 19-liter water barrels failed to meet even the national standard for tap water.

The report said Nongfu Spring's water is only bottled in accordance with the standards of Zhejiang Province, which are comparatively lax.

In the amount of arsenic permitted, for example, the national standard allows no more than 0.01 milligrams per liter while Zhejiang allows five times as much.

Beijing Times also reported that in Guangdong Province, where the local water quality standard is more strict than the Zhejiang standard, Nongfu Spring continues to use the Zhejiang standard.

In response, Nongfu Spring released several reports that showed its water quality meets not only the Chinese national standard, but also the requirements of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

At a press conference, Zhong Shanshan, chairman of Nongfu Spring, said the company did not advertise meeting the national standard because meeting the national standard is a requirement for all bottled water. Because of that, it chose to advertise meeting the Zhejiang standard.

Although he was not willing to disclose the company's internal standards, he said Nongfu Spring always follows the strictest requirements.

Zhou Xiaolin, an officer at the Zhejiang Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision, said the bureau had already applied to follow the new national standard and urged other companies following the old Zhejiang provincial standard to tighten up as well.

Zhong said Nongfu Spring is preparing a lawsuit to seek 60 million yuan in damages from *Beijing Times*.

Water battle

The suspension in Beijing may not mean that much to Nongfu Spring, whose primary market is the eastern coast. In Beijing, barrels of Nongfu Spring account for less than 2 percent of the local barreled water market.

Zhong said each of its 100,000 customers in Beijing will receive five 4-liter bottles of Nongfu Spring water as replacement to barreled water in the next three months. The company will continue to provide barreled water to government offices.

China's water market is dominated by Master Kang, which controls nearly 23 percent of the market.

Nongfu Spring is number two,

with 22 percent, while C'estbon controls less than 9 percent of the market, according to data collected by AC Nielsen.

In recent years, Nongfu Spring has been encroaching on the South China market, the base of C'estbon. Last year, Nongfu Spring's market share in Shenzhen grew from 9 to 12 percent.

C'estbon has responded by moving into Beijing and other North China markets. In 2010, it started to move its production from purified water to mineral water.

Price is what makes C'estbon a key competitor.

Master Kang has long captured the low end of the market with its 1 yuan water bottles, and Wahaha focuses on third- and fourth-tier cities.

The tension between Nongfu Spring and C'estbon has a long history.

Nongfu Spring became famous overnight in 2000 when it began bottling spring water, which is considered healthier than purified water. Its promotional material claimed the lack of natural minerals in purified water means it has no long-term health benefits.

The campaign helped Nongfu Spring gain the largest market share that year, but brought it in direct competition with bottlers of purified water such as C'estbon and Wahaha.

Nongfu Spring then lashed out at mineral water, saying adding minerals to water is unhealthy.

But the water giant has been mired in a quality crisis for several years. In 2009, Nongfu Spring was accused of having excessive arsenic content by the local Bureau for Industrial and Commercial Administration in Hainan Province.

The water's origin remains a key criticism. Unlike purified water, which comes from tap water, Nongfu Springs sources its water from the surface of Lake Wanlü in Guangdong Province, Lake Qiandao in Zhejiang Province and the Danjiangkou Reservoir in Hubei Province.

Since the water is merely filtered and barreled, critics say the bottling process is unable to remove heavy metals.

While many experts agree that natural water is healthier than processed water, Nongfu Spring's use of surface water rather than spring water is a major point of contention.

The water battle is expected to continue for several months.

Jian Aihua, consultant of China Investment Company, said the latest criticisms may force Nongfu Spring out of its position and leave openings for newcomers in the middle- to high-end water market.

Ya'an gains from the

Quake coverage sees massive imp

By Zhao Hongyi

The 7.0-degree earthquake on April 20 in Ya'an and Lushan, Sichuan Province, was the deadliest quake since the 2008 Wenchuan quake.

Support was quicker to arrive this time — as was the media.

Most reports focused on the same traffic jams and rescues, as well as the hard work of thousands of volunteers for pouring into disaster area and disrupting rescue efforts.

But compared to what was seen after the Wenchuan quake, also in Sichuan Province,



The PLA's rescue team



Premier Li Keqiang enjoys his breakfast.



Medical teams operate.



A volunteer from Wenchuan who lost her feet in the 2008 disaster



Children in Ya'an salute to rescuers.

Better coverage

It's hard to forget the images of the Wenchuan reporter.

When tens of thousands of volunteers poured into the area, he was there to bump rush every last man, woman and child drawn from the rubble to ask the most useless question of all: "How do you feel?"

One reporter even had the audacity to barge into a tent hospital and grab a surgeon mid-operation to ask him questions.

The improvement during the last five years is obvious. This time around, reporters have shown restraint, offering help where needed and stepping back when ordered.

Han Han, Shanghai's favorite writer and racecar driver, wrote an article calling on reporters to back off and avoid interfering with rescue workers.

"[In 2008], we did not bring much to assist in the rescue. On the road to Wenchuan, our car broke down and blocked the road to the disaster area. Many real rescue vehicles had to wait until it could be cleared," Han wrote.

"We were frustrated by information on the Web about which people needed what," Han said. "When we got there, we found there was no one organizing anything. In the end, we donated everything we had to Jet Li's One Foundation."

This quake has not been free of such clownery.

At a press conference held by the Sichuan Provincial government on the day after the quake, government officials strutted out in their suits for a 10-minute introduction ceremony. More than 10 minutes passed on television before anyone even breathed one word about the quake.

Many visitors were furious about the officials' admittedly odd priorities in the midst of a crisis.

The information they shared at the press conference was limited to things everyone already knew and included no updates about the rescue effort, support or any of the ques-



Dong Mingzhu, a housewife, prepares lunch in her ruined kitchen on the

tions raised by reporters.

Self-questioning

Rather than invading the space of struggling victims, the Chinese media has held back to focus on questioning itself.

"Who cares about what the earthquake victims need? Who cares about their spirit of perseverance?" said Li Xiaomeng, the famous China Central Television moderator, asks in her web-show the day after the earthquake.

"Who cares about the lessons of the earth-

quake? Do these canned

ter actually benefit us as

Critics on the Internet

ment's emphasis on pos

demands that media lion

times of crisis.

"The real stories are

cover in due time — a su

its heroes and their adv

efforts," Li said.

"Well-meaning volunt

Voices:

Media interference

Two things follow most disasters: a rescue effort and a media storm. And does the Chinese media ever whip up a storm. But in their effort to cover everything and everyone in the disaster area, many reporters interfere in rescue efforts.

We hope our colleagues on the front lines can restrain themselves and focus on reporting the facts of the disaster rather than how they feel about the disaster. This is a time for spreading somber information: not selling yourself and your channel.

— Cao Lin, *Chinese Youth Daily* commentator

Awkward reports about officials

I cannot imagine how the US public would

have reacted had CNN run a piece about the governor of Massachusetts eating hot dogs for breakfast or the chief of police sleeping in a tent after the Boston bombings.

China is still handling things the way it did 100 years ago. It's easy to just chalk this up to a difference between our two countries, but I think the people have already made a judgment in their hearts.

— Bao Beibei, student of mass media, Columbia University

Quake less damaging than negligence

Let's get this straight: the earthquake did not kill anyone. The deaths and damage were the

result of enforcing poor

poor location.

China used to be the

reporting, but today we

any alarm.

The China Earthquake

annual budget of 4.09 bil

that, a paltry 38.2 million

tain the national earthqua

It's sad when you real

million on their employeee

— J

Montreal

Reporters have th

The Sichuan Provin

Lessons of Wenchuan

Improvement after 2008's bungling

...e shook the lives of millions who already suffered during the Wenchuan quake

...ship of families living off rations in tent cities. Some criticized local officials and

...ts.

...province, the media, officials and volunteers are far more mature and organized.



...e day of the earthquake.

CFP Photos

...reports about the disas-

...a people?" he said.

...et blasted the govern-

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...nize the leaders during

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...mmmary of the disaster,

...vice about such rescue

...eers need to butt out and

leave the work to professional rescue teams who are trained in how to respond," Han Han said, rescinding his support for mass rescue efforts.

"Public volunteers are better off rounding up materials and sending them to a professional charity and rescue team," said Fan Zhihai, a rescue expert at the One Foundation.

Li Shen, a Chinese student studying in Japan, said the best thing the public can do is show respect, keep a somber tone and help when called upon.

"We should collect information about what supplies are in need and organize their delivery," Li said. "The media should report the latest progress in the rescue rather than focus on the feelings and reactions of confused individuals."

Progress

This time, reporters focused on the maintenance workers trying to restore the power grid, the demolition crews removing obstacles and the military's search for survivors.

After the third day, the provincial and country officials learned to keep a somber tone and focus on the disaster effort instead of their own image.

Still, there were a few bad apples looking to exploit the quake as a way to boost their own fame.

One was a local woman who married during the quake and opted to wear her wedding dress during several days of reporting on the ground — because she was just that dedicated.

More strange were the reports that focused on what Premier Li Keqiang ate for breakfast on his visit to the most damaged Lushan. There was apparently hard news to be found in that bowl of porridge and Sichuan pickled mustard root.

In one picture captured during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to the disaster area, Party Secretary of Lushan County Fan Jiyao accompanied the premier while wearing a Swiss-made luxury Vacheron Constantin wristwatch — one of the many luxury watches featured in his various TV appearance.

After being criticized, the party secretary took off his watch. The coverage shifted to his watch tan line and an inspection of archived photos to catalog his collection.

The Red Cross of China, the nation's top disaster authority at the ministry level, receiving nothing at all after the disaster thanks in part to Guo Meimei, the 20-year-old general manager of Red Cross Commercial who brought infamy to the organization in 2011.

The privately owned One Foundation was the most trusted recipient of public money this time around.

and ruins, no crying people or desperate faces.

— Tang Xinzi, Chinese columnist in Japan

The best coverage

Reporters should accurately report what they see rather than wait for a press release by the local government.

Their job is to learn about the areas that have been damaged, witness who has been injured and help the victims express their situation to the outside world. It is wrong to trample on their privacy without permission.

I hope the journalists can remember who these reports are intended for.

— Akira Nakao, consultant, Japanese Disaster Rescue Association



Reporters gather as a victim is pulled from the rubble.



Ya'an TV's reporting bride was heavily criti-



The press conference in Lushan County the day after the earthquake



Local children are told by their parents wait- ing on the street for emergency rations.



Donors from across the country show their sympathy in unusual ways.

True contemporary art of China

'Voice of the Unseen' at the 55th Venice Biennale

Wider and louder voices

Official tolerance of new, abrasive, avant-garde modern art began roughly in 1999, when 19 Chinese artists appeared at the Venice Biennale – more than those from any other country – and took the event by storm.

China's artists have carved a niche for themselves around the world since that time. However shocking and outrageous works may initially appear to the public, people have come to realize that contemporary art is imbued with sharp-edged social commentary.

A large show of unofficial Chinese art organized in the Western world, *Voice of the Unseen*, will clarify some scattered, specific and symbolic international images of contemporary Chinese art.

The showcase is organized by Guangdong Museum of Art and the Sichuan Tomorrow Arts Management Company. Curator Wang Lin said the exhibition is a perfect encapsulation of their experience over two tumultuous decades at the vanguard of China's contemporary art scene. Various schools presenting different styles of the last 30 years have been assembled.

Diverse in subject matter, styles and techniques, and yet distinctly Chinese in artistic temperament, these works present a regional view of contemporary China. An academic committee of 12 art critics recommended the participating artists, who were selected to cater to the broad tastes of visitors from around the world.

It has been divided into nine sections: Memory, History, Poverty, Body, Family, Village, Ruins, Landscape, Magic. The full exhibition consists of 156 Chinese artists or groups. A central library of catalogs will be available.



Courtyard by Zhang Xiangxi

By Chen Nan

Voice of the Unseen, a massive show of contemporary Chinese art organized in Italy, opens at the Venice Arsenal on May 30. Officially approved by the organizing committee of Venice Biennale, the show gathers works from Chinese artists against a contemporary backdrop.

It is initiated by curator Wang Lin, Luo Yiping and Gloria Vallese. A preview will start on May 29, with the opening ceremony scheduled for the next day. The exhibition will last until November 24.



Van Gogh by Ren Sihong



Peace Treaty of 1901 by Yu Cun

Photos provided by Today Art Museum

"The participation of Chinese artists is a sign that the state has given its blessing to display China's avant-garde art at the Biennale," said the Cultural Counselor of the Italian Embassy in China, Barbara Alighiero.

Steps in Venice

The show came about largely thanks to Wang – specifically, a visit to Venice to trace the impact of Chinese art.

On one of the city's islands, a



Unreachable by Jiao Xingtiao

shop called "Sometimes Open" caught Wang's eye. Inside, to his surprise, he discovered many publications about Chinese art.

"There was a furious outpouring of creativity and innovation" after large volumes of Chinese publications were translated in Europe, Wang said.

Inside the Venetian shop, he found books by Zhang Xiaogang, Luo Zhongli, Ye Yongqing and Yue Minjun, to name a few. Mao Zedong's face graced trinkets and kitsch sold at tourist markets.

"I felt Chinese contemporary art was stereotyped," Wang said. So he thought: "Why don't we hold an exhibition and select works by ourselves?"

Born in 1949 in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, Wang spent eight years in the countryside during the Cultural Revolution. During that period, he read many art history books and was exposed to China's traditional arts.

He is currently a professor at the Sichuan Fine Art Institute and a guest professor at the Xi'an Fine Art Institute.

"I felt I had a duty to speak out about my culture and give people different perspectives," he said.

When he returned to China, he asked for help to present his idea. Wang called on the Guangdong Museum of Art to lend its financial resources. Then he came to his student, Xiang Li, who is the president of Sichuan Tomorrow Arts Management, and asked him to get involved.

"It's a message to the world, offering alternative looks at what's going on in China," Xiang said. "The best artist is one who can face his or her real self and the real world. China's art scene of yesterday is different from the present. If it were otherwise, then exhibitions would be meaningless."

Wang's colleague, Bao Dong, an art critic and curator of *On | Off*, said: "Why are China's images only represented by a few artists? It's a result of mutual choice. On one hand it's the Western choice, and their investment enables them to select works that they believe represents China's issues; on the other hand, it is the aesthetic preference of Chinese artists who hope to cater to Western tastes."

Works in the lineup often deal with interpretations of China's role as the world's factory. "Many of the designs and paintings challenge the limitations of width and weight of China's art scene, and also of the imagination," Wang said.

Interesting shops at Sanlitun Soho

By Annie Wei

As Sanlitun Soho sells units to individuals, those individuals in turn are allowed to rent their place to any kind of business, which has unfortunately resulted in a fragmented commercial and residential community.

You'll have to dig a little to find the gems, but that doesn't mean they don't exist. This week, *Beijing Today* scouted two new stores at Sanlitun Soho, offering cool digital products and Elisabeth Koch's beautiful hats.



At TD Store/Fisheye Cafe

Photo by An Jianda



Cute digital products with coffee

The Fisheye Café that originally opened in Sanlitun Village in 2009 is closed, but its new headquarters at Baiziwang remains a hotspot for coffee fans in Sanlitun area.

The new Fisheye Café at Soho not only sells coffee, but more lifestyle items for the young and cool. It's like an office for Apple geeks, as Fisheye Café's owner, Sun Yu, used to work for Apple. Many of his friends and coffee drinkers come from IT backgrounds.

You can find things like iCade, an accessory for iPads. It functions as a miniaturized and portable arcade cabinet.

If you work at the cafe and need to scan and send a document, you can use the store's iPad scanner.

If you are low-tech but enjoy coffee, feel free to ask the store assistant to help with software installation.

TD Store/Fisheye Café

Where: B1-503, Sanlitun Soho (near Ssam at the Sunset Garden), 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5624 6901

Revival of hats

Although it's never been traditional for women in China to wear hats, it can be fun if you're organizing a tea party.

For headwear-themed parties, only special hats will do. We recommend trying a store called Hatters' Hub, run by Elisabeth Koch, an American-born Dutch woman and the only milliner in the country.

Koch moved to Beijing in 2007 and has made a career out of making hats.

She has worked with all the leading fashion magazines for shoots, including *Vogue*, *Bazaar* and *Cosmo*.

When you drop by her store, you can flip through her media portfolio and be amazed by all the different looks.

"I make 130-something hats a year," Koch said in her open office, which is at the back of Hatters' Hub. Customers can see her and her team working.

We tried some of her couture hats (starting from 1,500 yuan) and enjoyed them. For an outdoor party on a lawn with champagne, flowers and well-dressed guests, think about donning colorful hats with large brims, feathers and special shapes that stand out, adding lots of fun.

You can also find many practical and chic hat (around 300 yuan) for daily wear, such as light straw with navy blue streamers for picnics; or a garden frock of white linen combined with checked linen, which goes well with potted dresses and gives a trendy retro look like from an Audrey Hepburn movie.

Hatters' Hub

Where: Shop 5135 (street level), retail building 5, Sanlitun Soho, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 8 pm



Models wearing hats for formal and casual occasions

CFP Photos



Hats from Hatters' Hub

Photos by An Jianda

Terraces open for the summer



At Frez

Photos provided by Aqua

Rooftop bars at Nali Patio

Nali Patio is the most popular nightlife spot during the capital's summertime. Apart from a nice garden, it has three rooftop bars – Migas, Enoterra and Frez.

Frez, belonging to Aqua Restaurant Group, just opened on the rooftop of Nali Patio in April, above Aqua.

Everyday after 5 pm, you can meet your friends at Frez for a signature cocktails such as Basilico, a mix of vodka, fresh lemon, basil, sugar and blackberry liquor; we like its bloody gazpacho, made of garlic mixed with vodka, horseradish, chili and ice. You can try the house-made fruit vodka in apple and vanilla or orange and ginger flavors; or homemade rum with pineapple and vanilla or coconut and vanilla flavors.

Snack food is available as well. If you

want something more serious, just walk the stairs to Aqua and order from its new menu designed by chef Jordi Valles, including items such as smoked fish with salad, black olive, basil and cherry tomatoes; beef and mushroom ravioli; and tapas like red peppers stuffed with seafood. Its classic dishes like traditional crispy pig and dessert Torrija with cream and almond are also available.

Aqua offers 70 wines, with 30 kinds only found here. We recommend trying some of the more special grapes such as Verdjo, Assyrtiko, Chenin Blanc, Viognier and Tempranillo.

Frez

Where: 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 5 pm – late

Tel: 5208 6138

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* explored some of the city's best rooftops and terraces for breakfast, coffee, drinks and snacks.

Relaxing amid blossoms

For long-term residents, Nanluogu Xiang has lost its charm due to crowds, tourists and over-priced stores.

However, the Peking Hostel offers not only a cozy place for backpackers, but a nice cafe and restaurant decorated with flowers inside and on the rooftop.

Before 11 am, you can grab a simple breakfast (starting at 35 yuan); regular coffee starts at 38 yuan. For the afternoon, you can try its Maythorn smoothies (40 yuan) or cool sparking berry drink (45 yuan), delicious and refreshing!

The hostel also has quite a few food items, such as salad, pasta and sandwich.

Peking Hostel

Where: 28 Heizhima Hutong off Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District
Open: 9 am – late
Tel: 8404 8787



Frez's signature cocktail Basilico

Sip a cool sparkling berry drink at the rooftop of Peking Hostel
Photo by An Jianda

Creamy risotto with asparagus puree Photos by An Jianda



Minced fish with lemon dressing

Domus' simple but delicious spring menu

By Annie Wei

Domus, a French fine dining restaurant tucked in Nanchizi Hutong near Tian'anmen Square, only offers dinner with five tables every day.

Better make the most of it.

This summer, Domus has upgraded its menu from warm and hearty winter comfort to lighter fare such as slow-poached minced marbled sand goby (a kind of fish) with lemon dressing, roasted king crab with arugula salad, creamy risotto with asparagus puree, roasted grass-fed Australian beef chop with abalone, and litchi mousse as dessert.

Marbled sand goby is rarely seen in the city, as it's mostly grown along south-west Asia's coastline. The restaurant orders a heavy tail, minces the meat and beats it to make it chewier, then slowly cooks it with lemon dressing.

The creamy risotto with asparagus puree is excellent, tasting light but flavorful.

We also liked the grass-fed beef and abalone, well-cooked and delicious.

Domus is more like a clubhouse than a restaurant. It updates a renovated hutong courtyard with modern comforts. The decor includes many original art pieces by contemporary Chinese artists. All furniture is imported from Italy, and many are original, one-of-a-kind pieces.

The first floor has a bar area, which can be turned into a dance floor with high-tech and sleek DJ equipment. It has some small rooms, ideal for meetings or a guys night out over whisky and cigars.

There is an open kitchen in the basement, a cellar with thousands of wines and a long-table dining area that seats 20.

Some of the restaurant's investors are from the entertainment industry, so it attracts many leading actors

and actresses. To dine at Domus, reservation is a must.

Domus Prive

Where: 15 Nanchizi Hutong (opposite Tiandi Yijia), Dongcheng District

Open: RSVP

Tel: 8511 8015



Litchi mousse